

Georgia's Pre-K Program Proposed Changes March 11, 2011



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

Governor Deal's Non-Negotiable Items for Changes to Georgia's Pre-K Program for FY 2012



- **Maintain a universal program**
- **Maintain quality**
- **Reduce program funding by \$54.5M**



Options Considered (48 Formula Runs)

- Four-hour program with 5,000 slots (\$53M)
- Nine-month program (\$20M)
- Adding one to two students per classroom (\$23M)
- Sliding scale fee payments (\$5M - \$10M)
- Reducing program by 10%, 20%, or 30% (\$30M - \$91M)
- One-time registration payments (\$2M - \$8M)
- Eliminating Transition Coaches (\$9M)

Feedback on the Original Proposal

- Providers and parents concerned with transportation issues after four-hour day.
- Parents would need additional after care beyond the four-hour day.
- Providers would face difficult challenge of maintaining qualified staff with 68.75% funded salaries.
- Children may not receive the same level of quality instruction provided in the current program.



FY2012 Pre-K Budget –

Governor's Proposal (March 7, 2011)

Georgia's Pre-K is back to being a 6.5 hour instructional day with 1.5 hours teacher planning.

Reductions

- **22 students per classroom**
- **Nine-month program (160 instructional days)**
- **Operating reduction (only 6.8%)**
- **T&E reduced**
- **Transition Coaches eliminated**
- **Governor's book**
- **Maintain nine credentialed rates**



FY 2012 Pre-K Budget (cont.)

Additions

- 2,000 slots (costs \$3.1M)
- Longitudinal research (costs \$1.5M)
- CLASS observations (costs \$1.4M)
- Money for PANDA upgrades (\$100K)
- Work Sampling Online (3 year phase-in)

Total Program Funding Recommended by Governor Deal



- 86,000 slots
- \$300,660,944 Total Lottery Funding
- (\$54,355,712) in savings



Questions:

- **What are the payment rates? Will new hires receive T&E?**
- **Will there be 9 or 10 payments? When will they begin?**
- **Will we be able to choose when our Pre-K year starts and ends?**

Questions:

- How will the changes impact Blended classrooms? Inclusion?
- Are planning days included in the nine month calendar?
- Is BFTS taking reductions?

Questions:

- What factors will be used to determine which classes are cut?
- May we ask parents for fees to fund the program for August to extend the school year?
- How will the changes affect the current requirements for assessments, lesson plans, training, etc.? Will CLASS still be used?

Next Steps

- **Continue to update F.A.Q. document**
- **Listening Sessions**
- **Focus Groups**
- **Survey**
- **Additional Webinars (as needed)**



Contact Information

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